



# BLACKMARKETING

## It Is Not For You!



Unfortunately, we frequently see reports of servicemembers prosecuted for blackmarketing. Good soldiers have jeopardized their military career by doing what seems to be harmless. This article will answer some frequently ask questions about blackmarketing.

### **What Is BlackMarketing ?**

The U.S. military is allowed to import certain goods without paying Korean import duties or tariffs. Blackmarketing is the act of buying, and then selling these controlled items to individuals who are not authorized to purchase them. Controlled items include those items that you buy at the PX or Commissary.

### **Does This Mean That All My Gifts To Korean Friends Must Be Bought On The Local Economy?**

No, just because you give a Korean friend a gift purchased at the PX or the Commissary does not mean that you have just blackmarketed. However, you need to be careful. While giving your Korean host or hostess a box of candies may not be blackmarketing, buying 10 cans of coffee and giving them to your Korean friends might constitute blackmarketing.

### **Who Is Harmed By Blackmarketing?**

First, you can be harmed by engaging in blackmarketing. If you are a civilian, you could lose your ration control card, and you could be barred from post. If you are a servicemember, you risk being court-martialed. Blackmarketing is punishable under the UCMJ.

Second, you harm your fellow servicemembers and civilians. Blackmarketing reduces the amount of goods available for fellow servicemembers in Korea. The federal government subsidizes the shipment of these good for your use, not for the use of blackmarketers. The cost of buying replacement goods that could have gone to servicemembers or authorized civilians comes out of the taxpayers pocket.

Third, you hurt the local Korean economy, people, and government. You hurt the Korean government in that it loses tax revenues from the people who would have bought their goods from local Korean merchants. This hurts you and the Korean people in that the Korean government will have less funds available to build better roads and safer cities.

### **Who Benefits From BlackMarketing?**

Very few people benefit from blackmarketing. Certain Koreans who specialize in selling blackmarketed goods may benefit from reselling these items on the local economy for a higher price. You might make a few dollars if you engage in blackmarketing. However, chances are you will probably get caught. If you do get caught, the punishment you will receive will outweigh whatever benefit you thought you had achieved by blackmarketing.

### **What Should I Do If Someone Ask Me To Help Him or Her Blackmarket?**

First, refuse the person's request. Then, report the matter to your unit commander or to the military police immediately.

### **Where Can I Get Information Concerning The Proper Way To Transfer Goods Here In Korea?**

You should read USFK Pam 608-3, or call PMJ-SSD, 738-5118.

*This pamphlet is not designed to answer every question regarding blackmarketing. It is designed to serve as a warning. If you have further questions, please contact your local Client Legal Services Office.*

Yongsan Client Legal Services Office, Bldg 4106, room 229 (ACS building).  
Please call 738-6841/8111 for an appointment. Office hours: M, Tu, W, F 0900-1600 and Th 1300-1500.